

Yellowstone Gateway Museum/School Partnership News 2012

The Livingston partnership is an outstanding example of museum/school collaboration, one of six museum/school partnerships awarded in the last two years by OPI. There are currently four new partnerships around the state. The Yellowstone Gateway Museum and the Livingston Schools created a speaker series, teaching trunks and 3-D displays. The project culminated in a cross-cultural field day at Fort Parker, the first Crow Agency. Livingston School Superintendent, Dr. Rich Moore, and three of the district's principals, Luke Shelton, Robert Stevenson and Lisa Rosberg joined the afternoon meeting.

The Livingston grant team is composed of Laura McCarthy and Paul Shea of the Yellowstone Gateway Museum (YGM), retired PHS librarian and YGM Board member Suzanne Goodman, Eastside 5th grade teachers Robin Lovec, Christina Gillespie, Kathy Francisco, Vicki Schwarz, and East Side Librarian Merrilee Bryan. Former 5th grade students Sophia Taylor and Morgan Rosberg related their experiences with IEFA programs. They were joined by their families Marissa, Hillary and Bill Taylor and Lisa Rosberg.

In September the Yellowstone Gateway Museum welcomed two inspiring groups of visitors. Until 1868, the majority of Park County was Crow Country; the first Crow Agency was located just east of Livingston, at Fort Parker. The Yellowstone Gateway Museum is making an effort to tell this story with the help of the Crow Tribe and authentic Crow objects. The Museum invited representatives from the Crow Tribe to help identify and interpret some of the museum's Native Cultures collections. Burton Pretty On Top, Crow Cultural Officer; Hubert Two Leggings, Crow Historic Preservation Officer; and Joe White Clay and Richard White Clay from the Crow Cultural Office joined museum staff and board members for the day to educate them on Crow history and the significance of the Museum's collections. This marks the dawn of a long term relationship with the Crow Tribe. The museum will continue to work with the Crow Cultural Office and the Little Big Horn College to expand the interpretation of Crow artifacts in order to create new educational exhibits.

That afternoon, representatives from the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), Edwin Schupman, Education Product Developer; Clare Cuddy, Education Manager; and Pam Moodis, from the NMAI Office of Education joined museum staff and the Crow delegation to celebrate the conclusion of a museum/school grant. They were visiting Montana to gather information on the state's Indian Education For All (IEFA) programs. The NMAI delegation was an eager and appreciative audience. Details on the implementation of the program, and its reception by all

participants were of particular interest. This noteworthy meeting was concluded with comments from school administrators, teachers, parents, students, tribal members and museum personnel. Expressing admiration and congratulations for all that has been accomplished, the NMAI delegation promised continued enthusiastic support and communication with Livingston schools and with the YGM Museum.

For photos taken throughout the day, check out our Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/yellowstone.gatewaymuseum>.

For more about our Native Cultures collections, check out our website:
yellowstonegatewaymuseum.org